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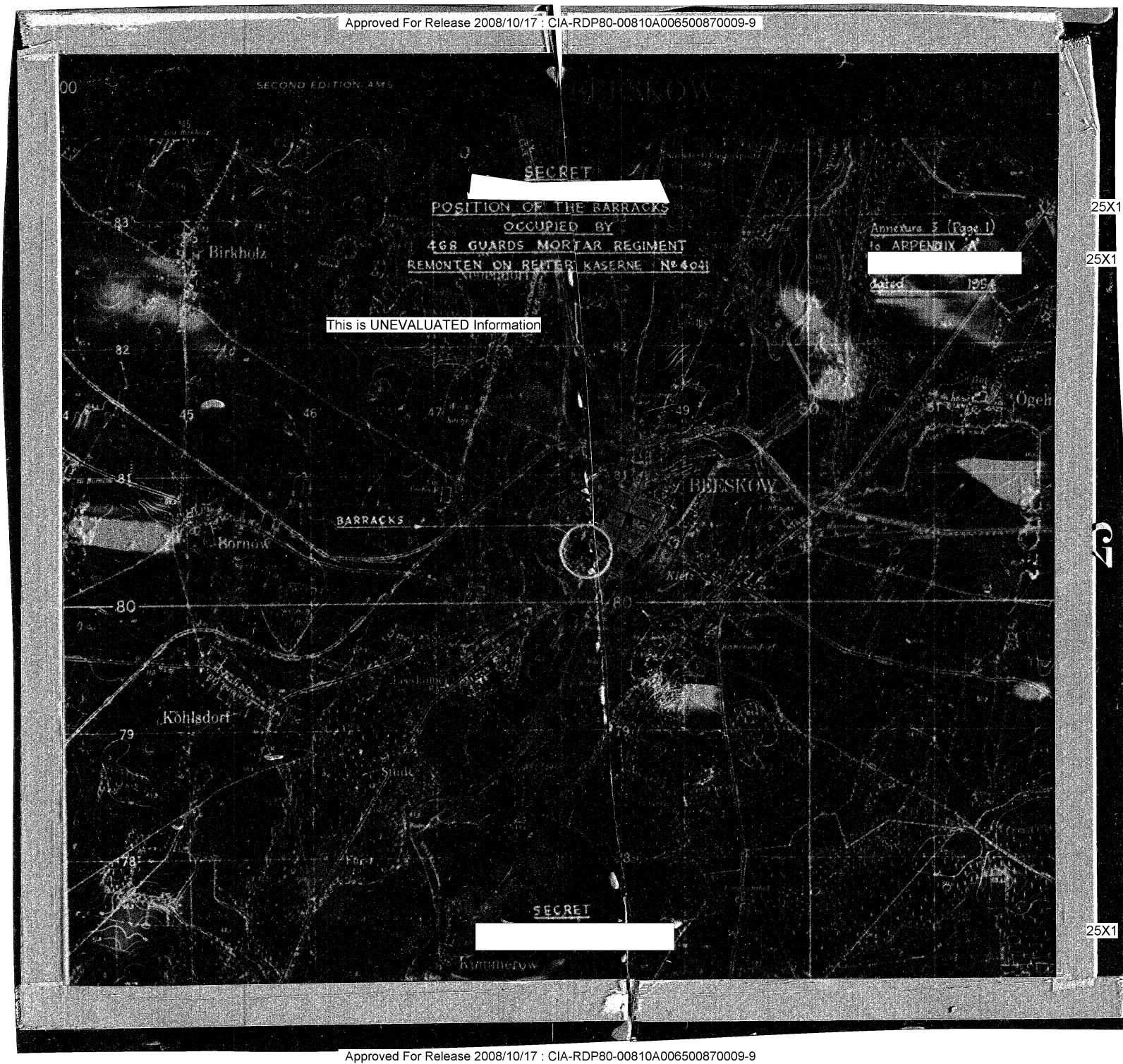

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APPROXIMATE POSITION OF
7 GUARDS MECHANISED DIVISIONS
SUMMER CAMP and ASSEMBLY AREA NEAR JAMLITZ
IN THE
LIEBEROSE TRAINING AREA

Annexure 3 (Page 2)
to APPENDIX 'A'
[redacted]
dated 195[redacted]

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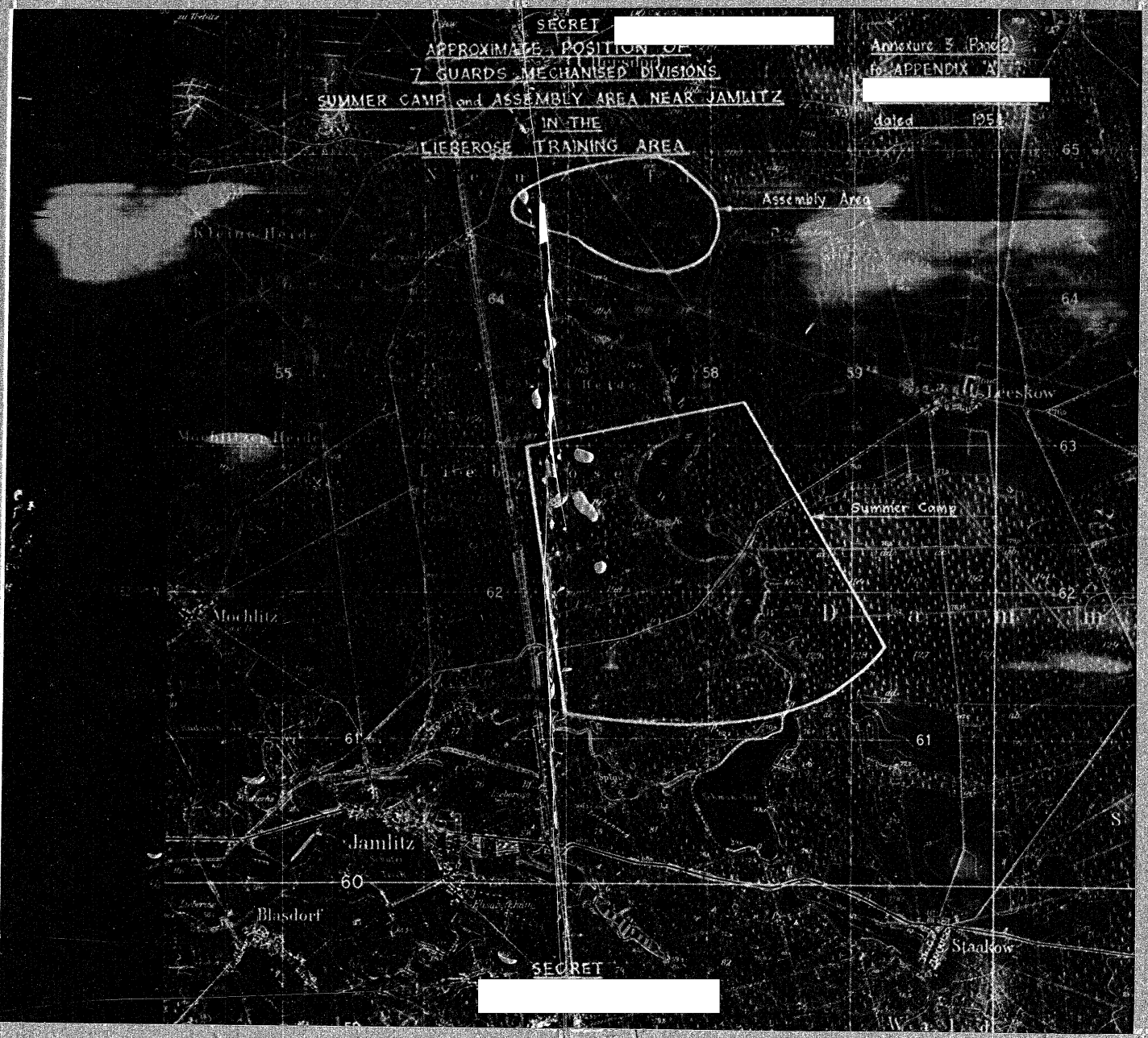

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SKETCH MAP OF THE SUMMER QUARTERS
OF
7 GUARDS MECHANISED DIVISION
NEAR JAMLITZ IN THE LIEBEROSE TRAINING AREA

Annexure 2
to Appendix A

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date: 1 1954

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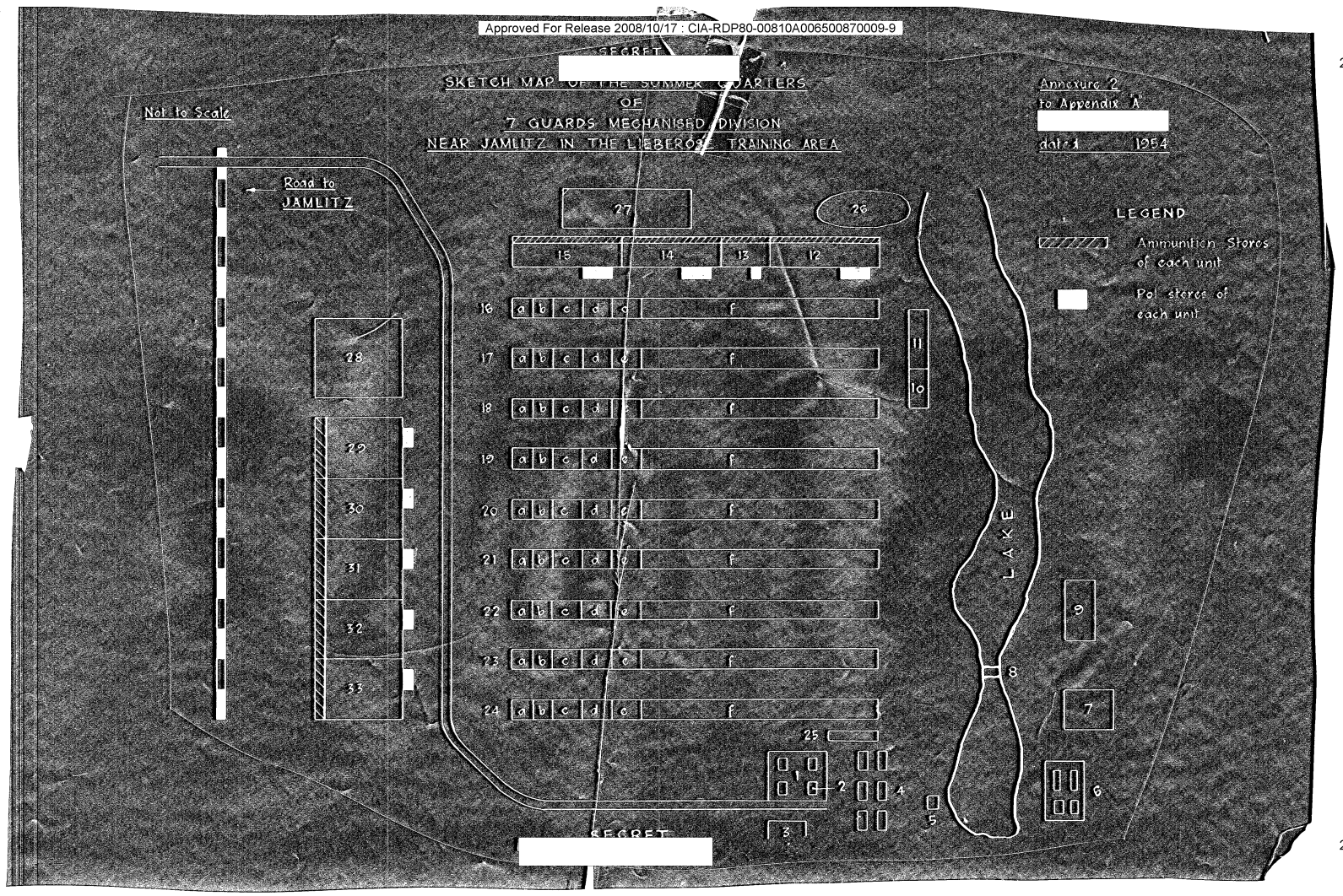

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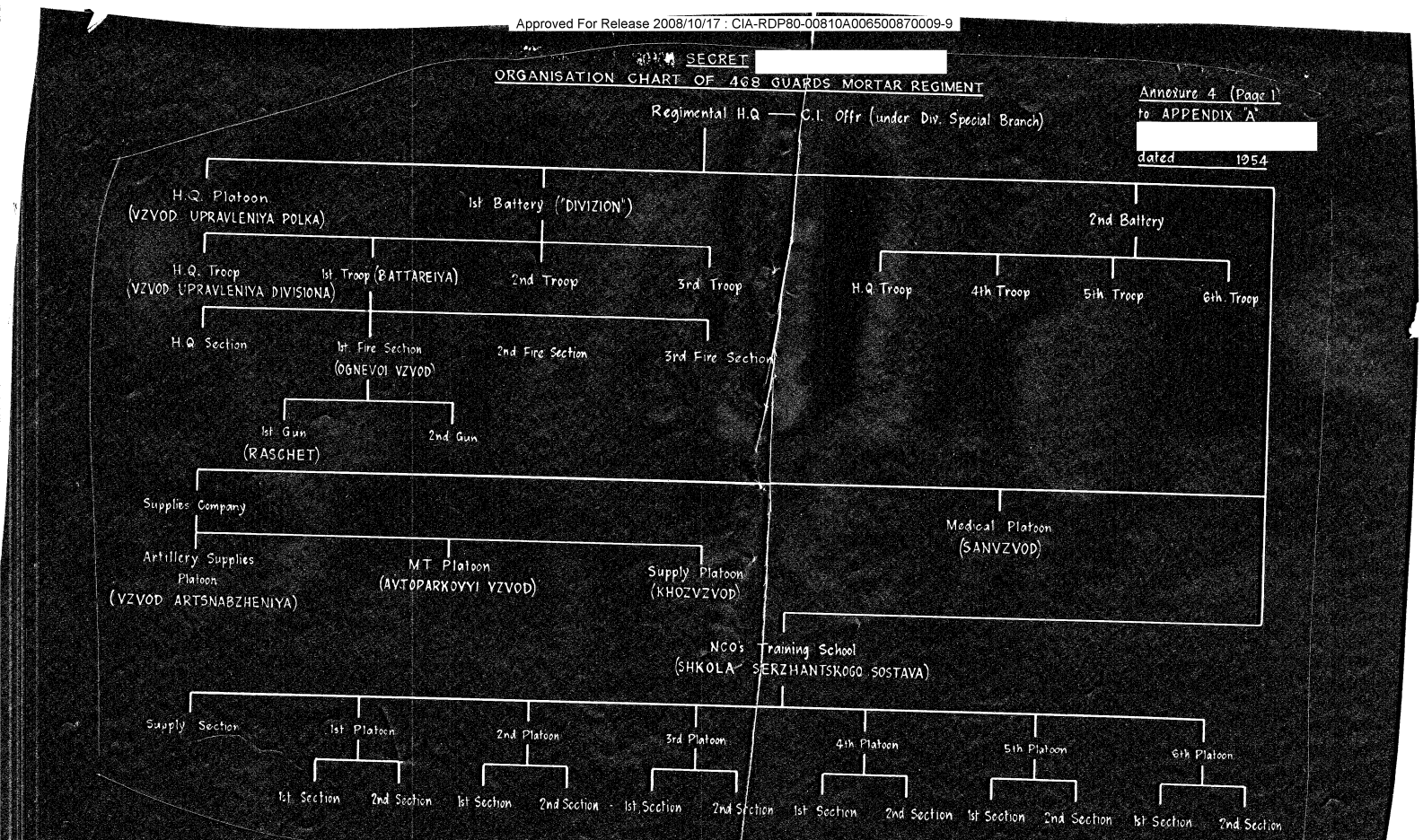
ORGANISATION CHART OF 468 GUARDS MORTAR REGIMENT

Annexure 4 (Page 1)
to APPENDIX 'A'
[redacted] 25X1
dated 1954



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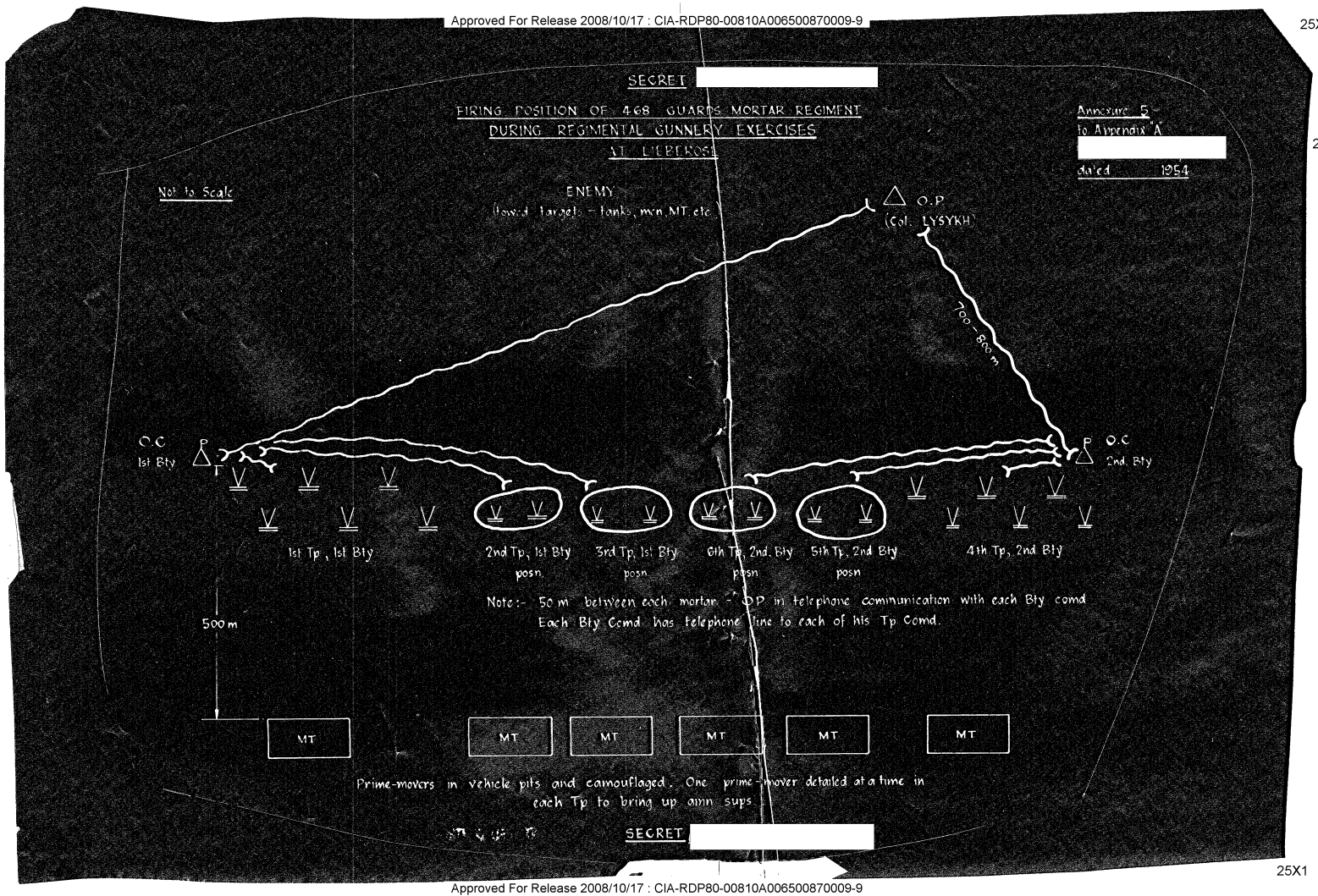
FIRING POSITION OF 468 GUARDS MORTAR REGIMENT DURING REGIMENTAL GUNNERY EXERCISES AT LIEBEROSE

Annexure 5
to Appendix "A"
[redacted]
dated 1954

25X1



Note:- 50 m between each mortar - OP in telephone communication with each Bty comd
Each Bty Comd has telephone line to each of his Tp Comd.

Prime-movers in vehicle pits and camouflaged. One prime-mover detailed at a time in each Tp to bring up ammn sups.

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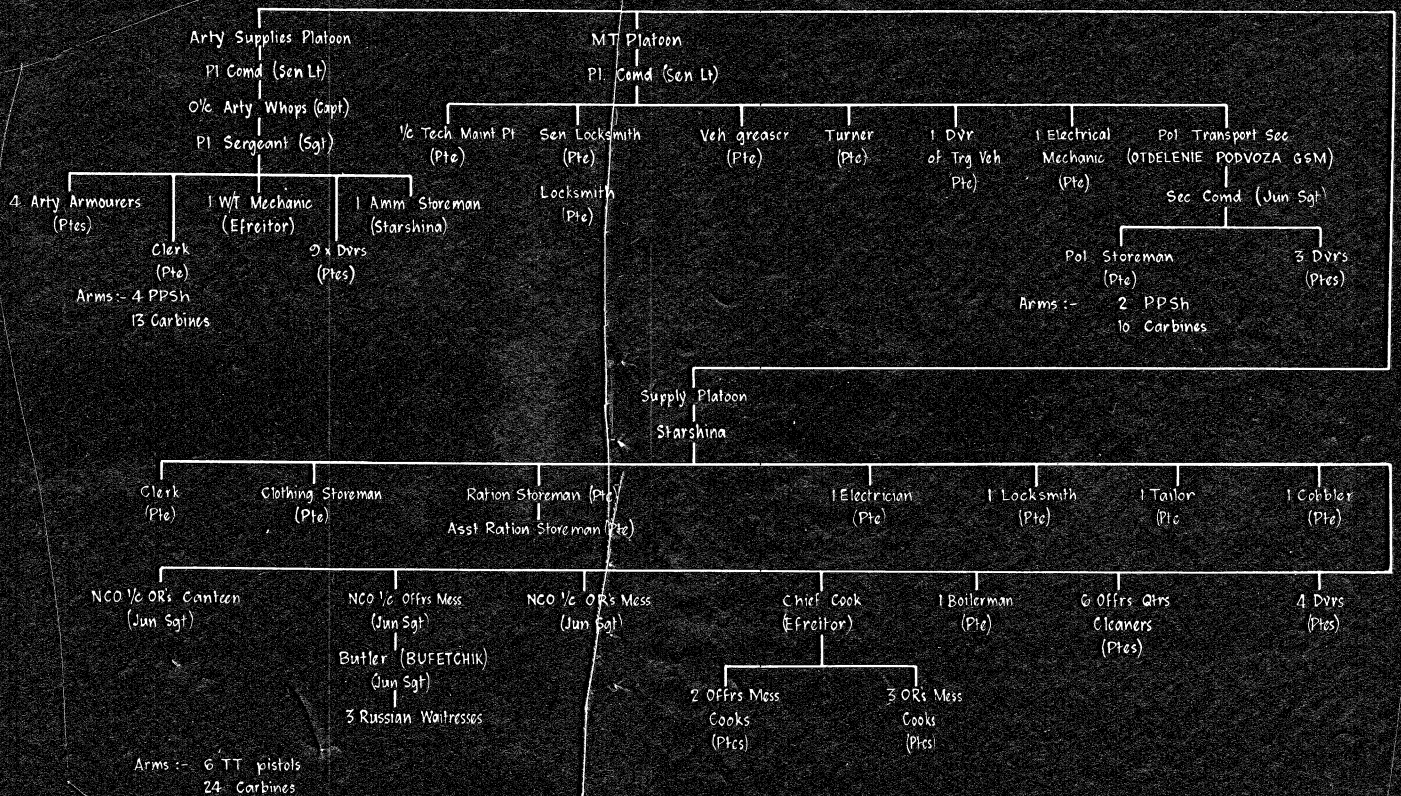
Supplies Company (ROTA SNABZHENII) under the Deputy for Supplies (ZAMPOKHOZ) — Annexure 4 (Page 5)



TOTAL STRENGTH	Officers	Starshina	Sgts	Jun Sgts	Efreitors	Ptes	Total
Arty Supplies Pl	2	1	1		1	14	19
MT Pl	1			1		11	13
Supply Pl		1		4	1	24	30
Total	3	2	1	5	2	49	62

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SKETCH PLAN OF THE BARRACKS OCCUPIED BY 468 GUARDS MECHANISED REGIMENT AT BEESKOW.

Annexure I
to Appendix A
[redacted]
dated 1954

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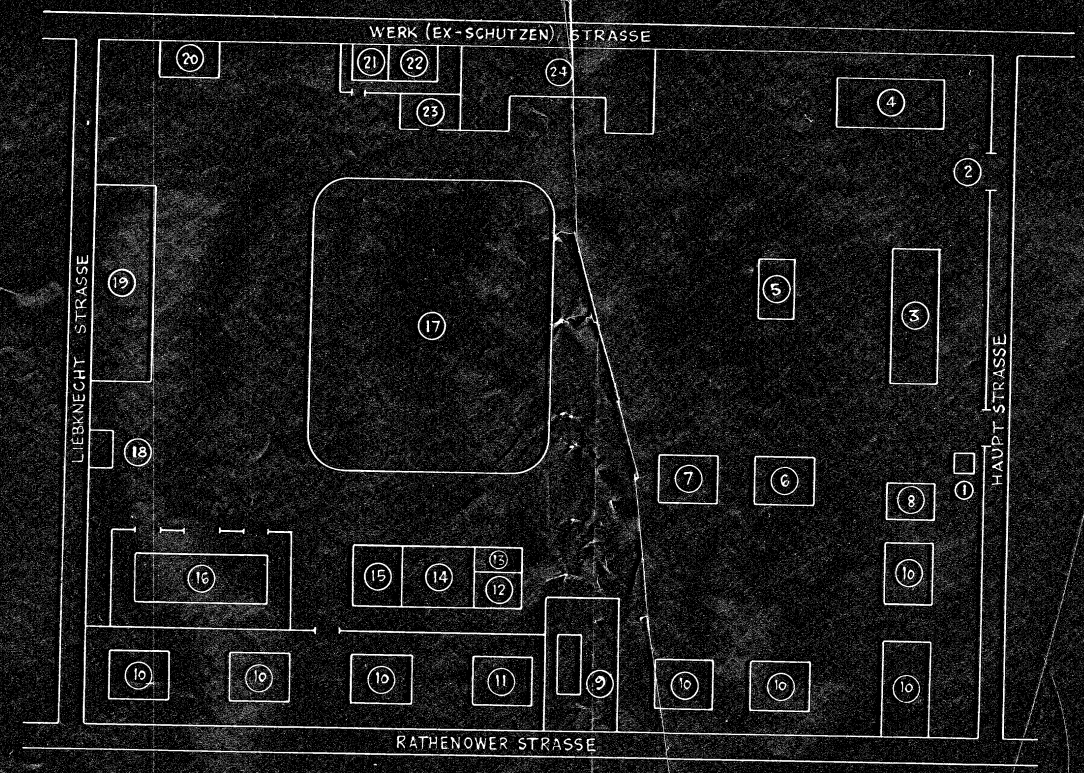

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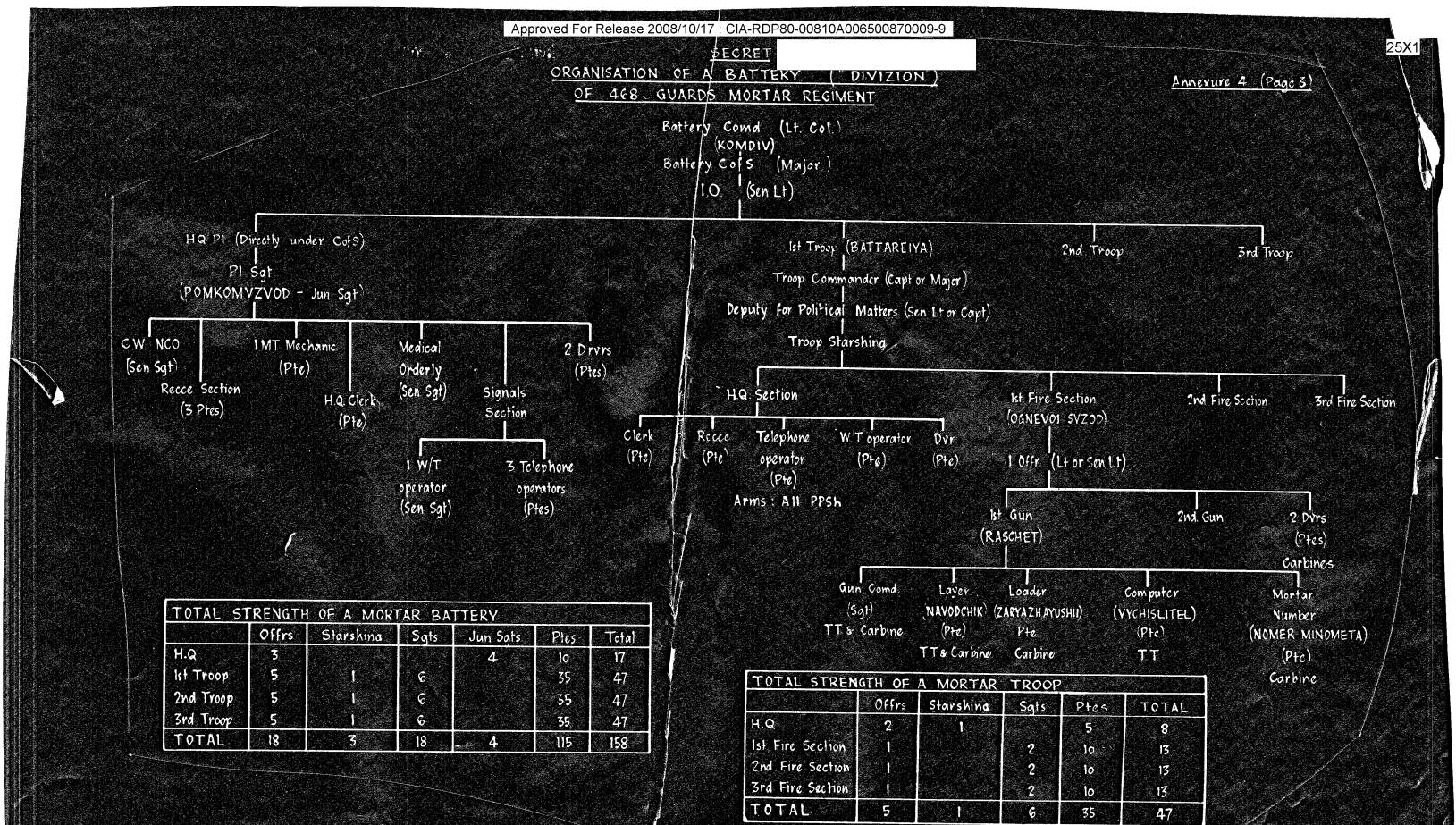
ORGANISATION OF A BATTERY (DIVIZION) OF 468 GUARDS MORTAR REGIMENT

Annexure 4 (Page 3)



TOTAL STRENGTH OF A MORTAR BATTERY						
	Offrs	Starshina	Sgts	Jun Sgts	Ptes	Total
H.Q	3			4	10	17
1st Troop	5	1	6		35	47
2nd Troop	5	1	6		35	47
3rd Troop	5	1	6		35	47
TOTAL	18	3	18	4	115	158

TOTAL STRENGTH OF A MORTAR TROOP					
	Offrs	Starshina	Sgts	Ptes	TOTAL
H.Q	2	1		5	8
1st Fire Section	1		2	10	13
2nd Fire Section	1		2	10	13
3rd Fire Section	1		2	10	13
TOTAL	5	1	6	35	47

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ORGANISATION OF 468 GUARDS MORTAR REGIMENT

Annexure 4 (Page 4)

Headquarters Platoon of the Regiment (VZVOD UPRAVLENIYA POLKA)

Platoon Commander (Lt)
Assistant Platoon Commander (POMKOMVZVOD - Junior Sgt)

- **Recce Section (OTDELENIE RAZUEDKI)**
  - Section Commander (Junior Sgt) TT pistol
  - 4 Privates 4 x PPSh Machine Carbines
- **Signals Section (OTDELENIE SVYAZI)**
  - Section Commander (Junior Sgt) TT pistol
  - W/T operator (Junior Sgt) TT Pistol
  - 4 Telephone operators (Ptes) 4 x Carbines
- 4 MT Drivers (Ptes) 4 x GAZ 63 4 x Carbines
- 5 Clerks (Ptes) 2 x TT pistols 3 x PPSh
- 1 Civilian Female Typist

TOTAL STRENGTH

Officers	1
Sergeants	4
Privates	17
Civilians	1

Medical Platoon (SANVZVOD)

Senior Medical Officer (Sen Lt) (STARSHYI VRACH POLKA)

- Chemist (Capt) (ZAVAPTEKOI)
- Asst MO (Lt) (FEL'DSHER POLKA)
- 3 Medical Orderlies (SANINSTRUKTOR) 3 x Carbines
- 2 Ward Orderlies (SANITAR) 2x Carbines
- 1 Ambulance Dvr 1 x GAZ - AA Ambulance 1 x Carbine

TOTAL STRENGTH

Officers	3
Privates	6

NCO's Training School (SHKOLA SERSHANTSKOGO SOSTAVA)

C.O. (Major)
Deputy For Training (Major)
Deputy for Political Matters (Major)
C.S.M. (STARSHINA SHKOLY)

- **Supply Section**
  - 3 Dvrs (Ptes)
  - 1 Cobbler (Pte)
  - 1 Clerk (Pte)
- **1st Platoon**
  - Pl Comd (Jun Lt Lt or Sen Lt)
  - Platoon (Sgt)
  - Sec Comd (Junior Sgt) — 10 Students (Ptes) (KURSANTY)
  - Sec Comd Junior Sgt — 10 Students (Ptes)
- **2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Platoons** (Same org and Str as 1st pl)

Note :- All Sergeants armed with PPSh Machine Carbines
All Students armed with Carbines
All Supply Section personnel armed with Carbines

TOTAL STRENGTH	Officers	Starshina	Sgts	Jun Sgts	Ptes	Total
H.Q	3	1				4
Supply Section					5	5
1st Platoon	1		1	2	20	24
2nd Pl	1		1	2	20	24
3rd Pl	1		1	2	20	24
4th Pl	1		1	2	20	24
5th Pl	1		1	2	20	24
6th Pl	1		1	2	20	24
Total	9	1	6	12	125	153

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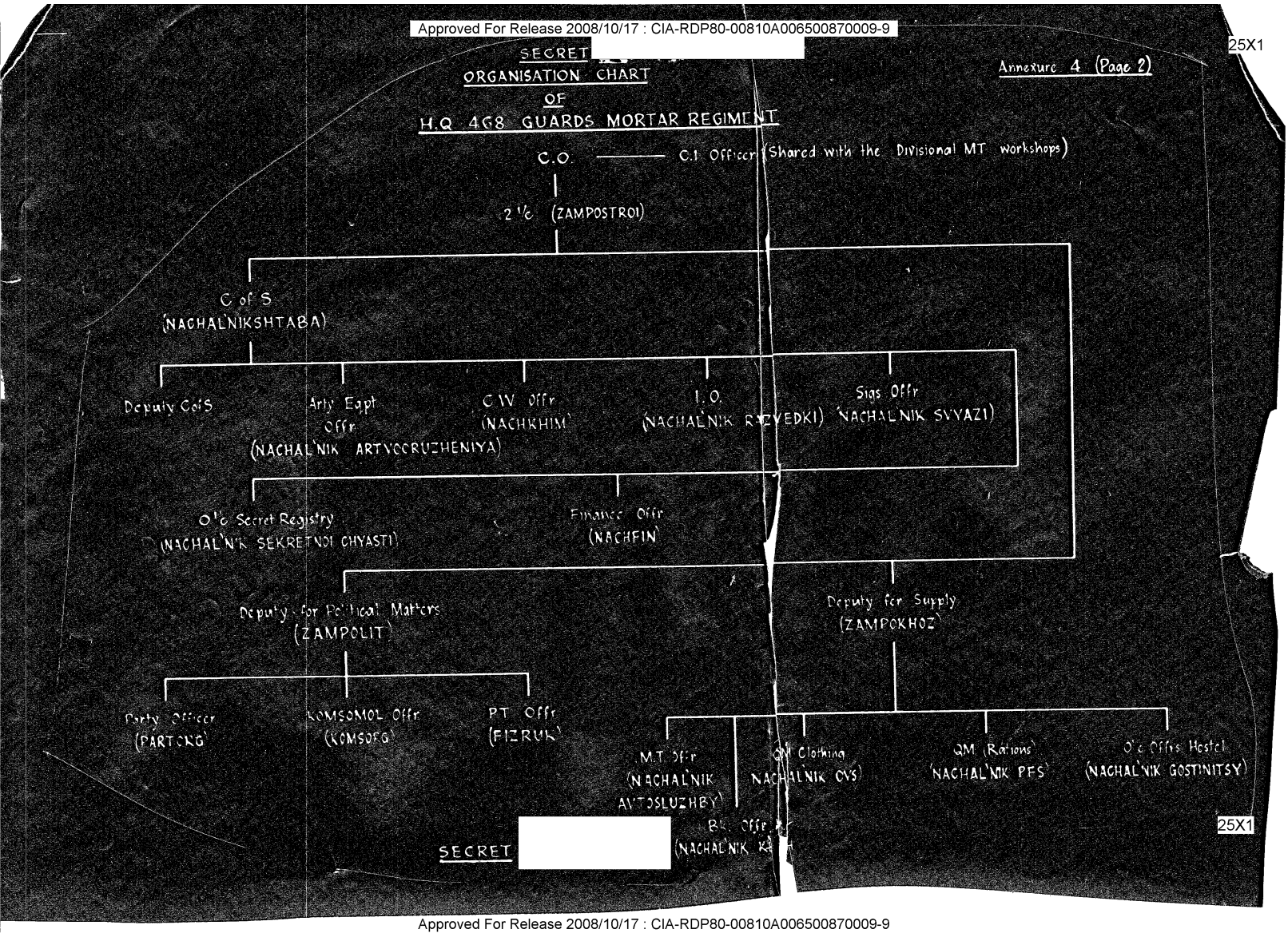
Annexure 4 (Page 2)

ORGANISATION CHART OF H.Q 468 GUARDS MORTAR REGIMENT



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(468 Guards Mortar Regiment - 7 Guards Mechanised Division)

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ANNEXURES

1. Sketch Plan of 468 Guards Mechanised Regiment's Barracks at BEESKOW.

2. Sketch Map of Summer Quarters of 7 Guards Mechanised Division Near JAMLITZ in The LIEBEROSE Training Area.

3. Page 1. Position of the barracks occupied by 468 Guards Mortar Regiment.

   Page 2. Approximate position of 7 Guards Mechanised Divisions summer camp and Assembly Area near Jamlitz.

4. Organisation Chart of 468 Guards Mortar Regiment.

5. Firing Position of 468 Guards Mortar Regiment during Regimental Gunnery Exercises at LIEBEROSE.

6. Order of March of 468 Guards Mortar Regiment.

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Annexures (Contd)

7. Rocket Launcher Firing Drill and Firing Position.

8. New Soviet Army Parade Uniform for Other Ranks.

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ORDER OF MARCH OF 468 GUARDS MORTAR REGIMENT

Annexure G
to Appendix "A"
[redacted]
dated 1954

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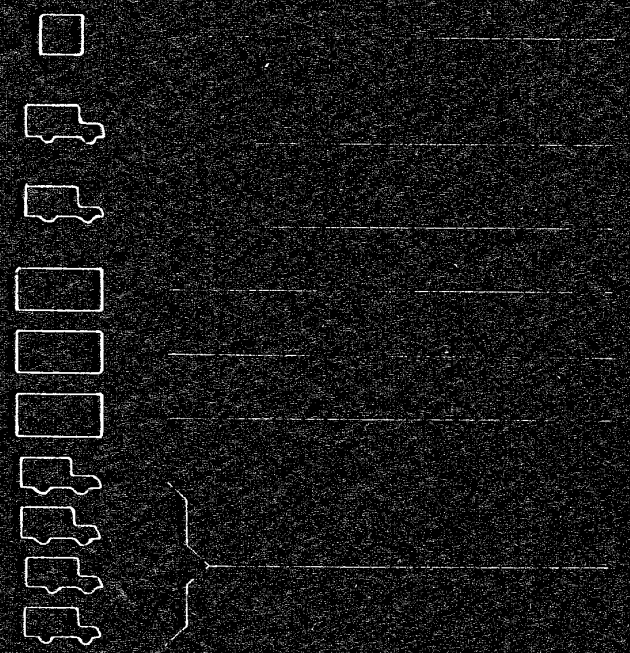

CO's Jeep with W/T set

Comd 1st Bty in "STROEVOI" lorry with W/T set.

"STROEVOI" lorry with staff of 1st Bty

1st Troop (1 "STROEVOI" and 6 lorries with 6 x 120 m.m. Mor)

2nd Troop " do "

3rd Troop " do "

Regtl Staff in 4 "STROEVOI" lorries

Comd 2nd Bty in "STROEVOI" lorry with W/T set

"STROEVOI" lorry with staff of 2nd Bty

4th Troop (1 "STROEVOI" and 6 lorries with 6 x 120 m.m. Mor)

5th Troop " do "

6th Troop " do "

Arty Supplies Pl (5 "STROEVOI" lorries loaded with ammunition)

Supply Pl (4 "TRANSPORTNYI" lorries)

Medical Pl (1 ambulance)

M T Pl (3 "TRANSPORTNYI" lorries)

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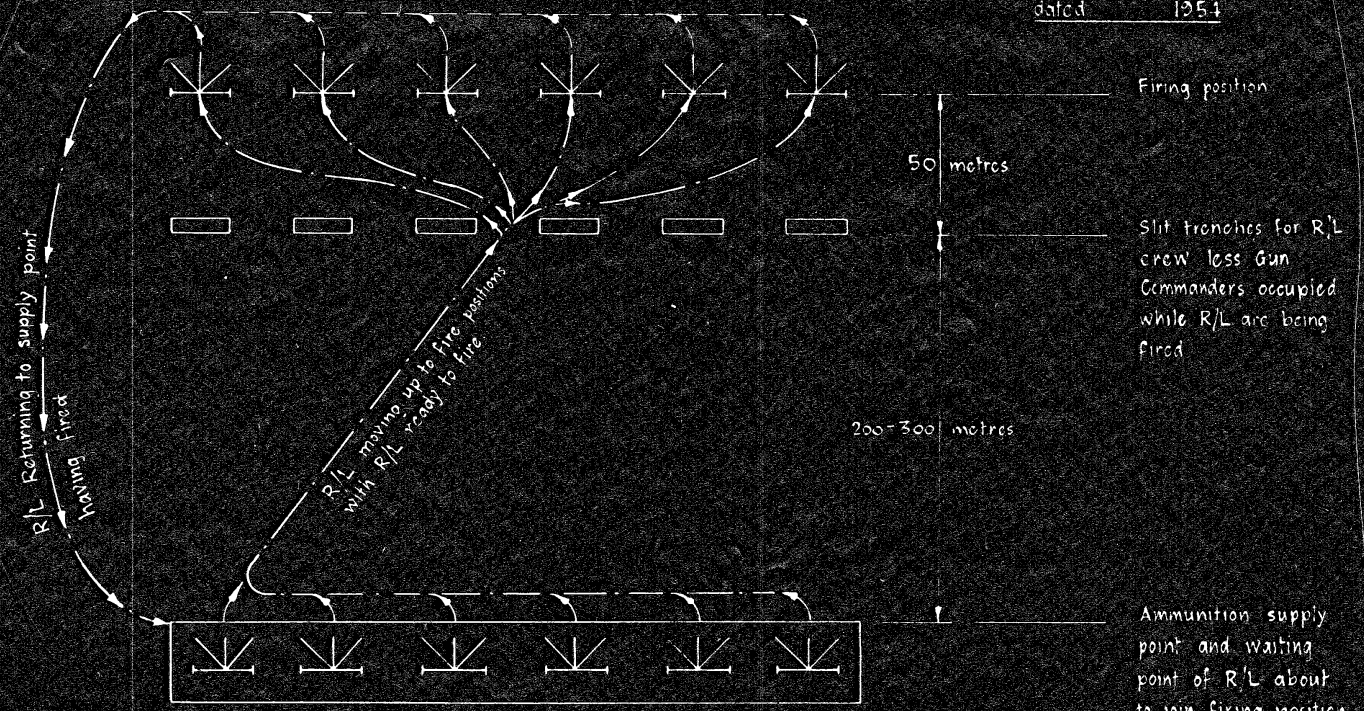
ROCKET LAUNCHER FIRING DRILL AND FIRING POSITION

Annexure 7
to Appendix "A"
[redacted] 25X1
dated 1954


Firing position
50 metres
Slit trenches for R/L crew less Gun Commanders occupied while R/L are being fired
200-300 metres
R/L moving up to fire positions with R/L ready to fire
R/L Returning to supply point having fired
Ammunition supply point and waiting point of R/L about to join firing position

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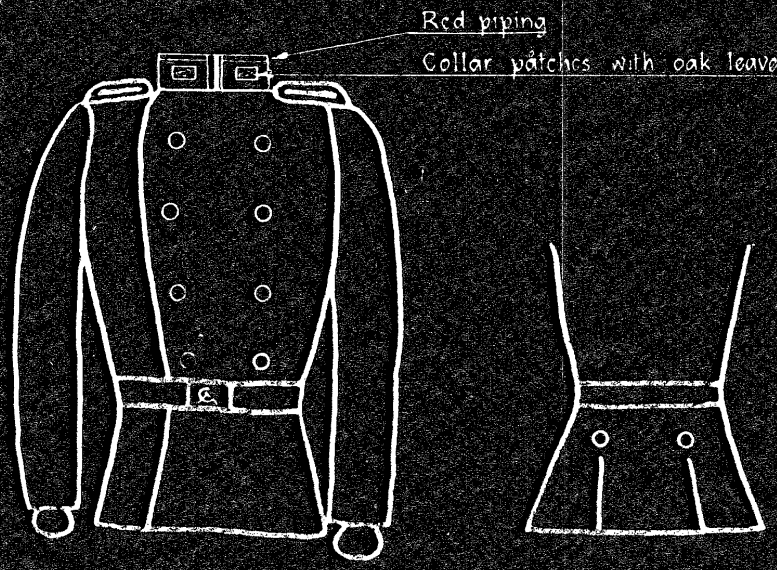
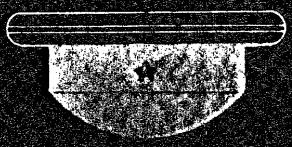
NEW SOVIET ARMY PARADE UNIFORM FOR OTHER RANKS

Annexure B
to Appendix 'A'
[redacted] 25X1
dated 1954.



FRONT VIEW

BACK VIEW



Officer type peaked cap

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ORDER OF BATTLE OF UNITS IN GERMANY

25X1

23. General.

[redacted] Army Headquarters was located in EBERSWALDE (VU 16)

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24. 7 Guards Mechanised Division

(a) [redacted] designations and/or locations of the Component units and installations of 7 Guards Mechanised Division as follows:-

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(i)	Divisional Headquarters	-	FÜRSTENWALDE (VU30)
(ii)	24 Gds Mech Regt.	-	BERLIN
(iii)	25 Gds Mech Regt.	-	FRANKFURT/ODER (VU60)
(iv)	26 Gds Mech Regt	-	FÜRSTENWALDE
(v)	57 "Tank Regiment"	-	FRANKFURT/ODER
(vi)	84 Hy Tk & SP Regt	-	FRANKFURT/ODER
(vii)	400 HOW Arty Regt	-	FRANKFURT/ODER
(viii)	468 Gds Mor Regt	-	BEESKOW (VT 48)
(ix)	u/i AA Arty Regt	-	FRANKFURT/ODER
(x)	u/i R/L Regt	-	FRANKFURT/ODER
(xi)	U/i M/C Bn	-	FÜRSTENWALDE
(xii)	u/i Engr Bn	-	FÜRSTENWALDE
(xiii)	u/i Sigs Bn	-	FÜRSTENWALDE
(xiv)	u/i MT Bn	-	BERKENBRÜCK (7 Kms from FÜRSTENWALDE)
(xv)	u/i Medical Bn	-	FÜRSTENWALDE
(xvi)	Divisional Tk Trg Bn	-	FÜRSTENWALDE
(xvii)	Divisional MT Dvrs School	-	BERKENBRÜCK
(xviii)	Divisional Supply Point (DOP)	-	BERKENBRÜCK
(xix)	Divisional MT Repair Workshops (PARB)	-	FRANKFURT/ODER
(xx)	Divisional Tank Repair "	-	Location unknown but believed to be in FRANKFURT/ODER
(xxi)	Divisional Barrack Stores (KEO/KECH)	-	FRANKFURT/ODER
(xxii)	Divisional Field Bakery (FAKH)	-	FÜRSTENWALDE
(xxiii)	Divisional Field Post Office	-	FÜRSTENWALDE

(b) Prior to the June, 1953, events, the whole Division moved every April to the LIEBEROSE Training Area for Summer Training. [redacted] a GOFG order required one regiment to remain in each garrison town during the summer as a deterrent to would-be rioters. In this respect, it was being said that both 25 and 26 Gds Mechanised Regiments would remain in their winter quarters during this summer. 25X1

(Comment: This information has, in some respects, been confirmed).

25. Units and Installations Subordinate to Army (4 Guards Mechanised Army)

(a) [redacted] a Rocket Launcher unit, located at EBERSWALDE, [redacted] was directly subordinate to Army. 25X1

(Comment: 312 Gds R/L Regt is held in the Artillerie Kaserne at EBERSWALDE. It is believed, however, that this Unit might have moved recently to FÜRSTENWALDE)

[redacted] 25X1

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(b) An Army Hospital was located at FRANKFURT/ODER

(Comment: This hospital is, in fact, subordinate to HQ GOFG)

26. Units and Installations Subordinate to GOFG

(a) [redacted] a Rations and Clothing Dump, subordinate to GOFG, at BAD SAAROW [redacted] This Dump was up to March, 1953, the Divisional Supply Point (DOP) of 7 Gds Mechanised Division. The latter moved to BERKENBRUCK in March, 1954, and the installation was taken over by GOFG.

(b) [redacted]

(c) [redacted] an Engineer Construction unit which was working on the construction of buildings in the LIEBEROSE Training area. [redacted]

(Comment: FPN 51559 is held as 56 MT Regiment of GSFG. Sub-units of this regiment have been [redacted] providing MT for constructional projects).

27. History of 468 Guards Mortar Regiment

(a) 468 Guards Mortar Regiment was formed in 1941 at SARATOV. It took part in a major action at KURSK and was nearly completely destroyed, only a few men remained alive [redacted] For this action the Regiment received the appellation "Guards".

(b) The regiment was reformed at RYAZHSK and sent to the BELO-RUSSIAN Front as an independent unit (i.e. some form of support Artillery). It took part in the capture of WARSAW and eventually fought a heavy action near FRANKFURT/ODER. According to the regiment's "Combat History" (BOEVOI PUT') only one Starshina and a private remained alive. They saved the [redacted] which riddled with bullet holes, was still in the Regiment.

(c) [redacted] the regiment was reformed after the War as a Cadre Unit at FRANKFURT/ODER and became part of 7 Guards Mechanised Division. It moved to BEESKOW during the winter of 1949/50 and was then uncadred.

28. Annexures to ORDER OF BATTLE information.

(a) Annexure 1 - Sketch Plan of the Barracks occupied by 468 Guards Mortar Regiment at BEESKOW

(b) Annexure 2 - Sketch Plan of the Summer Camp occupied by 7 Guards Mechanised Division near JAMLITZ in the LIEBEROSE Training Area.

(c) Annexure 3 - Marked Maps, 1: 25,000, showing:-

(i) Position of the Barracks Occupied by 468 Guards Mortar Regiment, Remonten on Reiter Kaserne [redacted] BEESKOW.

(ii) Approximate position of 7 Guards Mechanised Division's Summer Camp and Assembly Area near JAMLITZ in the LIEBEROSE Training Area.

ORDER OF BATTLE OF UNITS IN THE USSR.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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25X1

25X1

Type of Unit	Location
Tank Unit	CHITINSKAYA Oblast', OLOVYANNSKII Raion, RAZ'EZD (Railway Junction) 74. Subject's brother served in this Unit.
Marine Unit (MORSKAYA PEKHOTA)	VLADIVOSTOK, VTORAYA RECHKA.
- do -	VLADIVOSTOK
MGB Unit	KRASNOYARSK, Postal Sector 26
Naval vessel	VLADIVOSTOK.
Artillery Unit	BORISOV town
Tank Unit	NOVO-BORISOV.

30. Engineer Construction Units.

(a) This organisation was laying a telegraphic cable between MOSCOW and KUIBYSHEV. The actual work was being carried out by an Engineer Construction Regiment commanded by a Colonel under the technical control of the "KABEL' MAGISTRAL'" organisation. 25X1

(b) many such Engineer Construction units were engaged on factory and dwellings construction work in the KUIBYSHEV area 25X1

31. BELORUSSIAN Military District

(a) the BELORUSSIAN Military District was the most important one in the USSR. 25X1

(b) the whole of the NOVO-BORISOV area was one mass of armoured and other units, the former being equipped with new T-54 tanks. 25X1

ORGANISATION

32. 468 Guards Mortar Regiment

(a) The organisation of 468 Guards Mortar Regiment is given as Annexure 4 to this report.

(b) 468 Guards Mortar Regiment was to be re-organised as a "heavy artillery unit" within the Division. 25X1

25X1

33. 7 Guards Mechanised Division

This can be seen under 25X1
ORDER OF BATTLE (para. 24).

34. Rocket Launcher Unit of 7 Guards Mechanised Division

(a) the Rocket Launcher unit subordinate to 7 Guards Mechanised Division was a Regiment and not a Battery ("DIVIZION"). It was stationed at FRANKFURT/ODER 25X1

25X1

(b) This Unit had from 35-40 Rocket Launchers of both types (M.13 and M.31) 25X1

25X1

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[redacted] The unit drew its rations and pay from 7 Guards Mechanised Division while in Summer Camp. Furthermore, [redacted] a Rocket Launcher unit was stationed at EBERSWALDE and was directly subordinate to Army. These Army troops were distinct from the Rocket Launcher unit [redacted] at LIEBEROSE. 25X1

(c) [redacted] the crew of a rocket launcher consisted of six men: 25X1

(i) 2 loaders - They load the charges into the rockets.

(ii) 1 Gun number - subject described him as a "general helper".

(iii) 1 Layer

(iv) Driver

(v) Gun Commander

35. Change in status of GOFG

(a) [redacted] GOFG had changed its status since (or with) the relaxation of restrictions at the end of last year and that it was now exactly like a Military District (OKRUG) in the USSR from the point of view of serving conditions. 25X1

(b) [redacted] the following changes that had taken place and had made serving conditions in GOFG [redacted] the same as those in a Military District. 25X1

(i) Previously officers had served three or a little over three years in GERMANY and then were posted back to the USSR. Now officers would go on serving in GERMANY indefinitely or till promoted beyond establishment holding and had, therefore, been allowed to have their wives and families with them.

(ii) Officers, for all intents and purposes had complete freedom of movement, could mix socially with the local population and even marry German girls if they wanted to do so. (See para 93).

(iii) Other Ranks were granted short leave passes to visit the local town at the discretion of their Commanding Officers. (See para 92)

(iv) Other Ranks were to be granted 10 days home leave "every year". (See para.116).

(v) Overt censorship of private mail had ceased, although nothing had ever officially been mentioned. (See para 156).

(c) [redacted] 25X1

36. Penal Labour Battalions

(a) [redacted] there was at least one Corrective Labour Battalion (TRUDOVOI ISPRAVITEL'NYI BATTAL'ON) in each Military District of the USSR. 25X1

(b) The maximum period a soldier could be sent to such a visit was for three years and only after Court Martial. No remission of sentence was given for good behaviour, but indiscipline would result in the length of the sentence being extended. The time served in such a battaliondid not count towards the period of conscripted service On finishing his sentence, a soldier was sent to a unit to complete his conscripted service

(c) Discipline was harsh in Corrective Labour Battalions. Everything was done strictly according to the regulations. The slightest deviation from the regulations and any minor act of indiscipline was punished by close arrest.

[redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] 25X1

(d) Barracks were surrounded by barbed wire with observation towers for sentries. A soldier was never allowed out of the barracks precincts on short leave passes during the whole of the period of his sentence, in fact life in a Corrective Labour Battalion was very similar to that in an ordinary Soviet Forced Labour Camp with the exception of four hours drill political training and learning the Regulations (USTAVY) every day and normal Soviet Army food. Six to eight hours a day were devoted to work, usually on some construction project.

37. Labour Battalions

(a) Labour battalions were composed of conscripts with bad eyesight and hearing, but otherwise fit, and of young men who had had their call-up deferred by Medical Boards over a period of time long enough to make them mis-fits if they were called up with youths of 18 or 19 years of age.

(b) The period of service in Labour battalions was for two years. No drill was carried out apart from falling-in and marching to work. Privates were paid 300 to 350 rubles a month according to the type of work they were doing (unskilled labour, brick-layers, etc.)

38. Komendatura

(a) Komendatura could be of Group, Army or Divisional subordination according to the importance of the garrison.

(b) The BEESKOW Komendatura was only opened up last year and was of Army sub-ordination. It was adminstered by 468 Guards Mortar Regiment. Its staff consisted of one Lt. Colonel, two Majors, three Senior Lieutenants and six Other Ranks.

MANPOWER

39. Strength of 7 Guards Mechanised Division

[redacted] 7 Guards Mechanised Division [redacted] approximate Other Rank strength as follows: 25X1

(The figures in brackets are those given in Chapter III of Volume I of the War Office "Notes on the Soviet Army" as the all rank War Establishment of a Mechanised Division)

	[redacted]	Handbook IV/8(d)	
		Higher Est	Lower Est
Divisional Headquarters		138	116
3 Mechanised Regiments (average 1300)		6,777	3,828
Heavy Tk. SP Regt.		1,050	813
Medium Tk. Regt.		1,279	702
HOW Arty Regt.		548	411
A.A. Regt.		357	254
Mortar Regt.		521	403
(including NCO School)		NCO School)	
R/L "Regiment"		182	109
Signals Bn		238	143
Engineer Bn		320	187
MC Bn		407	313
MT Bn		260	140
Medical Bn		71	21

25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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Tk Trg Bn ..... (Permanent Staff)	[redacted]	-	62 (NCOs)
MT Dvrs School ..... (Permanent Staff)		-	43 (NCOs)
Divisional Supplies Point (DOP)		22	15
Field Tk Repair Wksps		91	67
Field MT Wksps (FARB)		62	49
Field Bakery		52	?
		12,518	8,041

25X1

Note: [redacted] the Handbook figures quoted include Officers. 25X1

40. Strength of 468 Gds Mortar Regiment

[redacted] 25X1

(b) In summarised form the strength [redacted] according to its establishment was as follows:- 25X1

Sub-Unit	Offrs	Starshina	Snr Sgts	Sgts	Jun Sgts	Efreitors	Ptes	Civ	TOTAL
HQ	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Regtl HQ Pl	1	-	-	-	4	-	17	1	23
1st Bty	18	3	-	18	4	-	115	-	158
2nd Bty	18	3	-	18	4	-	115	-	158
Supplies Coy	3	2	-	1	5	2	49	-	62
NCO Trg School	9	1	-	6	12	-	125	-	153
Medical Pl.	3	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	9
	72	9	0	43	29	2	427	1	583

(c) [redacted] DDED more Efreitors were allowed for on the establishment but for some reasons [redacted] Colonel LYSYKH was very parsimonious in promoting Privates to Efreitors, although where the establishment allowed for an Efreitor, the soldier holding the position received the pay of the higher rank. 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

(c) Comment: [redacted] the staff and students of the NCO Training School [redacted] 25X1 was only administered by the Regiment and that the students returned to their parent units on completing the course. Therefore, it is thought the all rank strength of 583 of 468 Guards Mortar Regiment should be reduced by 130 (thus allowing for those from the unit attending the course).

41. Increase in Strength of 468 Gds Mortar Regiment.

(a) The strength [redacted] (including the NCO Training School) [redacted] was a little over four hundred all ranks. 25X1

(b) [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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42. Breakdown by Years of Call-Up. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

43. Changes of Unit

(a) 468 Guards Mortar Regiment received about 20 "drunks" from 24 Guards Mechanised Regiment, stationed in BERLIN in February/March, 1954. These men had got involved in incidents in BERLIN and were considered security risks if they remained in the Capital. [redacted] 25X1

(b) It was the custom in the Soviet Army to reduce a persistently bad NCO to the ranks and then transfer him to another formation. The process took some time as the recommendation for transfer had to go to Army Headquarters through Divisional channels for approval.

44. Call-Up Procedure

(a) VOENKOMATS received orders from their Military Districts to call-up a given number of conscripts for a specified date for service in a specified district.

(b) Young men were, in the past, called up for conscripted service in March, April and May (The Spring Call-up) and in July, August and September (The Autumn Call-up) of each year.

(c) [redacted] it was also stated in the newspapers) 25X1 that the 1935 Class and those of older classes, who had had their call-up deferred for one reason or another, would be called-up from August onwards, through to December.

45. Demobilisation Procedure

(a) Demobilisation was carried out on the basis of a Ministry of Defence order which also covered the call-up of replacements. [redacted] such orders were worded as follows:- 25X1

> "Soldiers who have completed their period of service are to be relegated to the reserve as from ...(date)... Citizens due for call-up with the ...(year)... class and those whose call-up has been granted deferment are to be mobilised as from ...(date) ...

(b) Demobilisation took place every year from September onwards starting with those resident in the more distant districts (Oblasti) of the USSR. In GERMANY orders for demobilisation came to a unit from Divisional Headquarters who, in turn, had received the orders from Army Headquarters. Such orders were worded roughly as follows:-

> "Conscripts resident in the following Oblast' (or OBLASTI) are to be ready for demobilisation by ...(date)...

(c) Conscripts due for demobilisation were taken to a Divisional transit point and then on to the Transit Camp at FRANKFURT/ODER, where they were made up in to drafts according to their Oblast' of residence. They travelled back to the USSR in cattle trucks if the numbers of men from a Oblast' were big enough to warrant a complete train. Small drafts from a given Oblast' travelled by passenger train.

46. Attrition

(a) Soldiers could be sent back to the USSR before their period of conscripted service had expired either for unreliability (i.e. thought to be a potential

[redacted] 25X1

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25X1

deserter or "morally decomposed") or on medical grounds.

(b) Persons deemed unreliable, in the case of conscripts, were sent to some distant part of the USSR to finish their period of service or to a Constructional Labour Battalion (STROITEL'NYI BATTALION)

25X1

(c) Soldiers medically unfit were brought before a Medical Board at the FRANKFURT/ODER Hospital which decided whether the cases were to be sent back to the USSR or treated in GERMANY (in Soviet Army slang: KOMISSOVAL)

25X1

47. Officers' Terms of Service.

(a) the length of service required for promotion of officers to the next higher rank:

25X1

Lieutenant	3 years
Senior Lieutenant	6 years
Captain	9 years
Major	12 years
Lieutenant Colonel	15 years

(b) Promotion to Colonel was on merit only.

(c) For promotion to General rank an Officer had to pass a Military Academy successfully.

(d) promotion by length of service was theoretical. In practice, some officers remained Lieutenants for ten years because of unsatisfactory service.

25X1

25X1

48. Length of Service of Officers in GERMANY

25X1

(b) Those serving since 1950 included 2 Generals, 4 Colonels and Lt.Colonels, 3 Majors and 6 Lieutenants.

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[redacted] 25X1

(c) For new terms of service in GERMANY see para 35.

49. Long Service NCO (SVERKHSROCHNIKI)

(a) A drastic reduction of pay (see para.50) and appointments on establishments to be held by SVERKHSROCHNIKI resulted in seven out of ten of the SVERKHSROCHNIKI [redacted] leaving the Army at the end of 1953. 25X1

(b) Previously SVERKHSROCHNIKI held posts such as storemen and NCOs in charge of messes. Now such posts were held by conscripts, rarely with a rank higher than that of Junior Sergeant, but more often with the rank of Private or Efreitor.

50. Down-grading of Posts Held by Conscripted NCOs.

(a) Up to 30 November, 1953 a Commander of a prime-mover section of seven vehicles (KOMANDIR OTDELENII TYAGI) held the rank of junior sergeant. From the beginning of the training year, the post was down-graded on all establishments to be held by a private.

(b) Similarly all storemen in a unit held the rank of Senior Sergeant. From the beginning of the year, all newly-appointed storemen were to be efreitors. Those Senior Sergeants, who had not been demobilised by 30 November, 1953, were to keep their rank, but were only to receive the pay of an Efreitor.

25X1

[redacted]

[redacted] 25X1

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25X1

[redacted]

52. Registration Certificate

(a) [redacted] a Registration Certificate (PRIPISNOE SVIDETIL'STVO) which included the following data: 25X1

(i) Name, first name and patronymic,

(ii) Year and place of birth

(iii) Place of employment

(iv) Fit for active or non-active service (GODEN K STROEVOI ILI NE STROEVOI SLUZHBE).

(v) A note that the bearer was due for call-up in the "Autumn of 1952" without mentioning, however, either month or date

25X1

[redacted]

54. Call-up Pay from Place of Civilian Employment

Every conscript was entitled to a bonus of two weeks pay at the time of his call-up. Subject received his bonus on presenting his Registration Certificate, endorsed with his date of call-up to the Personnel Section of "KABEL' MAGISTRAL'".

55. Call-up and Travel to Place of Basic Training.

(a) Subject reported as instructed to the KUZNETSK VOENKOMAT. He and about 20-30 other youths were each given an envelope containing their papers and then entrained, escorted by an employee of the VOENKOMAT for the Oblast' Transit Camp (OBLASTNOI PERESYL'NYI PUNKT) at PENZA.

(b) The Transit Camp was in a barracks and some 5,000 young men were assembled there at the same time as subject.

25X1

[redacted]

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25X1

56. Basic Training

(a) The draft of recruits arrived at NOVO-BORISOV on 16 July at about 1700 hrs. They were marched to a Camp some three Kilometers from the station, where, immediately on arrival, they were given a bath and put into uniform.

(b) The draft was issued from the start with leather jack-boots of the quality known as "YALOVYE" (rough, greasy leather) instead of the leather and canvas boots (KERZOVYE) worn by conscripts in the USSR. They learnt from old soldiers that this meant thatthey were destined for GERMANY.

(c) The following morning the draft of recruits, in all about 1200 men, was paraded. The recruits were alloted to companies under officers and NCOs detached from units in the area. The NCOs were also conscripts. They were then divided up into platoons and sections and their basic training started from their first day at NOVO-BORISOV.

(d) Their training unit was known as the "Quarantine" (KARANTINA) and was attached to and administered by a Motor Rifle Regiment. The recruits were not allowed out of Camp nor to mix with other soldiers. Towards the end of August, the draft of recruits moved to Summer Camp at LEDISHEV, about 7 Kms from NOVO-BORISOV. The recruits were allowed passes on Saturdays and Sundays to visit BORISOV and NOVO-BORISOV, if their conduct had been examplary during the week.

(e) Basic training consisted of:-

(i) Basic drill with or without arms

(ii) Military courtesy.

(iii) Elementary tactics

(iv) One practice shoot with machine carbines. 3 shots were fired at a range of 50 m.

(v) Learning the basic manuals.

57. Military Oath

(a) The Military Oath was taken on 8 September by Companies at a Special Parade in the presence of a General Officer.

(b) Basic training was carried out for about ten days after the Oath-taking ceremony. During this period the young soldiers were issued with their Service books. (SLUZHEBNAYA KNIZUKA)

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(c) The young soldiers' last month at LEDISHEV was taken up with fatigues such as sorting potatoes, cleaning tanks and vehicles and building a small arms shooting range. It was during this period that subject was able to observe new Soviet heavy equipment.

58. Travel to GERMANY

(a) It was common knowledge that [redacted] were destined for GERMANY. An escort of Officers and NCO's from GERMANY arrived at LEDISHEV on about 22 October to accompany them on the journey. The draft was not, however, told their destination. 25X1

(b) 400 young men [redacted] and a further 500, who had completed their basic training with a different training unit at NOVO-BORISOV, were entrained in cattle trucks at 0200 hrs on 26 October. 25X1

25X1

(c) [redacted] drafts of replacements from NOVO-BORISOV, usually travelled to GERMANY via BREST. [redacted] went by way of LITHUANIA, where a further draft of 600 replacement, was picked up at a station, the name of which was not known to subject. 25X1

(d) Frontier formalities were carried out at CHERNYAKHOVSK (ex-INSTERBURG in EAST PRUSSIA). The train was guarded by Frontier Police with dogs - and all the men's Identity Books were collected. The draft was then paraded alongside the Russian gauge train. As each man's name was called out from his Service Book, he stepped forward, had his identity checked against his photograph and then entrained in the German train.

(e) The journey from NOVO-BORISOV to FRANKFURT/ODER took three days. On one occasion the train remained in a siding in a wood during the hours of daylight. From the empty tins and litter strewn about the place [redacted] this was a regular staging point for drafts travelling to and from the USSR. A hot meal was served during halts from a cattle-truck equipped with field kitchens. 25X1

(f) The draft arrived at FRANKFURT/ODER at about midnight on 29 October and were immediately taken by lorry to a transit camp run by 84 HY Tk SP Regt. They were billeted for the night in long, wooden huts. The following morning, after breakfast, they were sorted out. [redacted] 25X1

POLITICAL TRAINING

59. Political Training

(a) Political training (POLITZANYATIE) was held twice a week from 0800-0850 hrs on Tuesdays and Fridays. Thus two of the regular training hours every week were devoted to political training.

(b) In rear service sub-units of the regiment young soldiers were trained separately from those in their second and third year of service. In batteries ("DIVIZION"), all soldiers in their first year from both batteries received their political training in one group while those in their second and third years of service studied by troop ("BATAREYA") under their Troop Political Officer (BATAREINYI ZAMPOLIT).

(c) Political training was carried out in the following way:-

1st Period: A lecture at which, in theory, notes were taken by the listeners.

[redacted]

25X1

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25X1

[redacted]

1st Period (Following Week) — A discussion (BESEDA) on the subject of the lecture. The Political Officer asked questions, which some volunteered to answer. If no one volunteered, the question was asked again starting with the first name on the nominal roll and going on down the list till someone answered the question to the instructor's satisfaction.

60. Political Current Events Talks

(a) It was laid down that Political Current Event-talks (POLITINFORMATSIYA) were to be held three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

25X1

(b) In practice, [redacted] they were held for 15-20 minutes after P.T. about once a month during 1953 and this year none had been held at all.

[redacted]

25X1

(c) Comment: The "SOVETSKAYA ARMIYA", the daily newspaper of GSFG, has produced a number of articles deploring that such talks were but rarely held in many units and, in some, had fallen completely into abeyance.

61. Political Chain of Command.

[redacted]

25X1

Army - Political Branch (POLITOTDEL)
:
Division - Political Branch (POLITOTDEL)
:
Regimental Political Officer (POLKOVOI ZAMPOLIT)

Party Organiser (PARTORG) . . . PT Officer (FIZRUK) . . . Troop Political Officers (BATARFINYI ZAMPOLIT)

KOMSOMOL Officer (KOMSORG)

(b) There were no political officers at Battery ("DIVIZION") level.

TRAINING

62. The Training Cycle

(a) The New Training Year (UCHEBNYI GOD) started on 1 December each year with a unit level ceremonial parade. The Commanding Officer congratulated his men with the event and exhorted them to fresh efforts during the coming training year.

(b) Individual training went on until the Spring Inspection which took place in April. [redacted] 25X1
During this period the visit left for LIEBEROSE for gunnery practice, and could take part in some special exercise (see para. 70).

(c) Units left for Summer Camp at the end of April taking with them all equipment except accommodation stores.

(d) May was spent in getting the Summer Camp and all equipment ready for the Summer Training period. Only political and physical training was carried out.

[redacted]

25X1

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(e) The Summer Training period proper began in June. It included parade ground drill, individual training on mortars, driver training, musketry and battery (DIVIZION) level tactical training with live ammunition on the LIEBEROSE Artillery Ranges (see para 70).

(f) July and August saw a continuation of unit level training. Autumn regimental gunnery practice (see para 70) took place at the beginning of September as did the Autumn Inspection

(g) Autumn divisional level exercises took place at the end of September and at the beginning of October. They usually lasted 5 or 6 days.

(h) Units returned to their winter quarters at the end of the divisional exercises and spent October and November on barracks and equipment maintenance and in general preparing for the beginning of the new training year. May, October and November were referred to as "working months" (RABOCHII MESYATS) during which only political and physical training took place. It was during these months that all heavy equipment, including all motor transport with the exception of routine transport vehicles, was put in "preservation". This involved greasing, covering all windows with adhesive paper and raising all wheeled equipment on blocks. Army vehicle would be ready for the road in 5 to 10 minutes. It was the normal practice to keep heavy equipment in "preservation" both in summer and winter quarters and to take it out as required for training. Routine maintenance was carried out once a week on "Maintenance Day" (PARKOVYI DEN').

63. Inspections.

(a) Inspections took place twice a year, in the Spring and in the Autumn. The former were carried out in winter quarters while the Autumn inspection would start in Summer Camp for testing training and other forms of combat efficiency and end in winter quarters for such tests as political training, drill and barracks economy.

(b) [redacted] Inspection Commissions were appointed at Army level. 25X1
The Inspectors held assorted ranks, the actual physical inspection being carried out by officers usually of the rank of Lieutenant Colonel or Major. One such officer inspector was allotted for the detailed inspection of each sub-unit of a unit.

(c) Inspections were carried out according to a regular routine, as follows:-

(i) The whole unit would be paraded and inspectors would go round the rank checking each individual soldiers turn out, the state of his uniform and his personal weapon and the state of his gas mask. Each man would be asked if he had any complaints to make. Most soldiers were too shy to voice a complaint, but some of the more hardy would complain about lack of home leave, the quality of food, insufficient welfare amenities. Their complaints would be written down by the inspectors. [redacted]

25X1

(ii) The opening parade was followed by tests in political training, drill and in the physical fitness of the men.

(iii) The unit was then tested in its tactical training efficiency. This included ordinary infantry tactics and the efficiency of getting a mortar troop into position. Firing tests from personal weapons were also carried out.

(iv) Drivers were given driving efficiency tests.

(v) A thorough inspection was made of all vehicles and heavy equipment with particular stress on the state of their maintenance.

(vi) A group of inspectors also checked the quality of the food served to the Other Ranks as well as the state of cleanliness of the kitchens and the barracks.

[redacted] 25X1

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(vii) The inspection ended with a practice alert to test how long it took the unit to be ready to move off. 25X1

(viii) Discipline was checked by reference to conduct sheets.

(d) Not all units or sub-units were tested. 468 Guards Mechanised Regiment was not inspected at all during 1953.

25X1

64. Routine Visits and Inspections by High Ranking Officers.

(a) Major General VORONICH, 25X1

inspected 468 Guards Mortar Regiment at least six times in 1953 and three times this year. He was always accompanied by an ADC, a Senior Lieutenant. VORONICH "poked his nose into everything" (NOS SAVAL POVSYUDU) during his visits. He inspected equipment, looking for signs of negligent maintenance, the cleanliness of billets and kitchens, the quality of the food served to the troops and even personally corrected the angle at which soldiers were wearing their headgear.

(b) 25X1

(c) Major General SVITA, Head of Army Rear Services, paid a very short visit to 468 Guards Mortar Regiment in April, 1954. 25X1

(d) 25X1

(e) The Divisional Commander, Major General KAB RIDZE his Chief of Staff, Colonel MARKHOROV, his Deputy for Training, Colonel FEDOROV and his Deputy for Political Affairs, Major YURLOV all visited the unit from time to time throughout the year both when it was in Summer Quarters and when at BEESKOW. Colonel IVANOV, the Divisional Chief of Artillery, always personally supervised the unit's gunnery practice at LIEBEROSE twice a year. 25X1

65. Alerts in General.

(i) Training Alerts (UCHEBNAYA TREVOGA)

(ii) Combat Alerts (BOEVAYA TREVOGA)

66. Training Alerts

(a) All units were invariably raised by Training Alerts to go on exercises. Sometimes training alerts were held both when in winter and summer quarters without any move to the Divisional Assembly Area. On such occasions all personnel fell in next to their vehicles. Training alerts were also carried out at the time of inspections with or without moves to the Assembly Area.

(b) On leaving for Summer Camp or on exercises all stores were loaded onto the Unit's MT with the exception of barracks furniture. The "norm" laid down for loading stores and being ready to move was 1½ hours In practice, it took 5-6 hours to be ready to move off 25X1

25X1

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67. Conbat Alerts.

[redacted]

On Conbat alerts only emergency supplies of POL, rations and ammunition supplies (NZ) were carried. 25X1

68. Assembly Area of 7 Guards Mechanised Division.

(a) The Assembly Area (RAION SOSREDOTOCHENIY) of 7 Guards Mechanised Division was situated in a wood next to a small lake between the villages of MOCHLITZ and LEESKOW (MR VT 598634) some 7 Kms from JAMLITZ Station (See annexure 3).

(b) Each unit had its allotted area with pre-prepared trenches for vehicles and mortars some 25 meters apart from one another. Drivers of all vehicles [redacted] carried out periodical excursions to the Assembly Area to get acquainted with both the route and the particular trench alotted to his vehicle. 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

69. Alternative Assembly Area of 7 Guards Mechanised Division.

[redacted] 7 Guards Mechanised Division had an laternative Assembly Area since the June incidents of last year at a point near BERLIN. [redacted] the Chief of Staff and the Unit Intelligence Officer, originally carried out a reconnaissance of the Area. Later all regimental and battery staff officers visited the area from time to time, the last occasion being in February 1954. [redacted] this alternative Assembly Area was for the whole Army to which his Division was subordinate. (i.e. 4 Guards Mechanised Army). 25X1 25X1 25X1

70. Exercises

(a) [redacted] 25X1

(b) A Divisional level exercise in January, 1953.

(i) This exercise was to practice "Mobile Winter Camps (PEREDVIZHNYYA ZIMNIYA LAGERYA)" with the object of hardening personnel to winter field conditions (ZAKALKA K ZIMNIM POLEVYM USLOVIYAM).

(ii) The whole Division moved to the Divisional Assembly area near LEESOU (See para 68) a little to the NORTH EAST of JAMLITZ. [redacted] All reserve ammunition and rations, as well as all equipment, went on the exercise. 25X1

(iii) At LEESKOW, the whole Division put up tents and remained in the area for six days during which the ordinary training programme was carried on as though they were still in winter quarters.

(iv) After dark on the sixth day, the Division was alerted and given 1½ hours to strike camp, load up and be ready to move. This operation was carried out successfully. The Division then moved to the Artillery ranges in the LIEBEROSE Training area and again put up tents and carried out normal training for eight days.

(v) The Division was alerted at 1 a.m. during the night of the 8th - 9th day at LIEBEROSE, struck camp at 2 a.m. and was ready to move by 3.20 a.m. Each unit set out for its winter quarters with masked headlights using wooded country roads. 468 Guards Mortar Regiment reached BEESKOW at 1600 hrs, the exercise having lasted 15 days. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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(vi) The men were accommodated eleven to twelve men to a tent. Each tent had a coal burning, iron stove. 25X1

(c) Spring Regimental Gunnery Practice in March, 1953.

(i) Regimental gunnery practice (BOEVYE STREL'BY) took place twice a year, at LIEBEROSE.

(ii) The whole Regiment with full equipment, but no reserve stores, left for the Artillery ranges in the LIEBEROSE Training Area at dawn on 12 March, travelling by main roads.

(iii) At LIEBEROSE firing practice was carried out by individual Mortars, by troops, by batteries and ending with the whole regiment firing. The exercise was conducted by a Colonel IVANOV, Head of the Artillery Branch at 7 Guards Mechanised Division Headquarters.

(iv) Each mortar fired 12 rounds during the three days and their firing was rated as "good" by Colonel IVANOV.

(v) the layout of 468 Guard Mortar Regiments firing positions is given as Annexure 5 to this Report. 25X1

(d) Battery Level Tactical Training in JUNE, 1953.

left for Summer Camp in the LIEBEROSE Training area on 17 April, 1953. Battery ("DIVISION") level tactical training took place in the first week in June. 25X1 25X1

(e) Autumn Regimental Gunnery Practice in September, 1953.

The Autumn Regimental gunnery practice took place on 7, 8 and 9 September. The procedure followed was identical to that described in Sub-para (e) above.

(f) Autumn Divisional Level Tactical Exercise in September/October, 1953.

(i) Divisional level Autumn tactical exercises (OSENNIE TAKTICHESKIE UCHENII) took place from 28 September until about the 4th or 5th of October. 24 Guards Mechanised Regiment, which had moved to BERLIN after the June riots, did not take part in the Exercises.

25X1

(iii) Units of 7 Guards Mechanised Division were alerted at night and moved very slowly at night by wooded roads and tracks to an assembly area near FRANKFURT/ODER, laying up in woods during daylight. This move took about three days to complete.

(iv) The Division then moved back to BEESKOW again by night along wooded roads and tracks, each Unit having its own route and again laying up in woods during the day time. 25X1

(v) During the move, jet planes and twin engined bombers in groups of three simulated straffing and bombing attacks, both in the day time and at night.

(vi) The Division finally moved to the BEESKOWER STADT FORST, about two kilometers beyond BEESKOW where, having dug-in and camouflaged their vehicles, all personnel rested except Senior Officers down to Battery Commander level.

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[redacted] 25X1

(vii) The Senior Officers went to FURSTENWALDE for a conference on the exercise (RAZDOR ZIMATII), which lasted two days. On their return to the BEESKOWER STEIN FORST all units returned to their respective winter quarters.

[redacted] 25X1

(g) 9 Divisional Tactical Exercise at the end of January, 1954.

(i) This exercise took place at the end of January and the beginning of February, 1954, and lasted 3-4 days. The whole Division, again less 24 Guards Mechanised Regiment, took part.

(ii) The object of this exercise was to practice moving by night, and dispersal and digging to counter the enemy's use of atomic weapons. The latter is described in para 75. under the heading "Atomic Training".

(iii) [redacted] At night the Division practiced night moves round and in the training area. No aircraft took part in this exercise. 25X1

(h) Spring Regimental Gunnery Practice in March, 1954.

[redacted] 25X1

(j) Army (?) Exercise to Practice Defence Against Attack by Atomic Weapons in March, 1954.

This exercise took place in the LIEBEROSE Training Area from the 16-20 March.

[redacted] 25X1

71. 468 Guards Mortar Regiment in Column of March.

(a) [redacted] 25X1

(b) During the combat alert following on the June incidents 468 Guards Mortar Regiment moved at night with camouflaged lights from LIEBEROSE to BEESKOW, a distance of 35 Kms in a little over an hour.

[redacted] 25X1

(c) A diagram showing the order of march of 468 Guards Mortar Regiment is given at Annexure 6 to this report.

[redacted] 25X1

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(d) The Commanding Officer was in voice wireless contact with both his battery commanders when on the move. 25X1

(e) Each prime-mover carried 1½ tons of mortar ammunition, (this works out roughly at 94 Mortar bombs).

[redacted] 25X1

73. Traffic Regulators

(a) Each Battery ("DIVIZION") trained all its other Rank personnel to act as traffic regulators (REGULIROVCHIKI)

(b) Each vehicle carried a man in the back with a red and a white flag for passing conventional flag signals down the column.

74. Physical Training

(a) Route Marches. The whole regiment took part in a route march with full kit and equipment on a Sunday, in May 1953, when in Summer Camp. The course was 7 Kms long and was covered in about 1 hour 20 minutes. All ranks stood up to the test.

(b) Cross Country Runs. Cross country runs were held very often, instead of morning PT when in Summer Camp. The men were taken [redacted] to a point 3 Kms away and then ran back to Camp. 25X1

(c) G.T.O. Certificates. Every conscript was supposed to pass his G.T.O. (GOTOV K TRUDU I K OBORNE) tests whilst in the Army. In practice only line troops were made to take the tests: Very few Rear Service personnel passed the tests.

75. Atomic Training

(a) Atomic training began in January, 1954. Officers were given lectures on how to protect themselves from the atomic bomb, how to conceal equipment and on its effects, etc.

[redacted] 25X1

(b) Two exercises, both involving atomic warfare defence, took place in Jan/Feb and 16-20 March this year.

[redacted] 25X1

(c) [redacted] 25X1

(d) Immediately the regiment halted, all officers down to troop commanders were called to Regimental HQ and given warning of possible atomic attack.

(e) Each officer then returned to his sub-unit and showed his subordinates where he proposed to hide his equipment.

[redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] 25X1

(f) The men did not take the atomic threat very seriously.

(g) It is interesting to note that in the March exercise all units of 7 Guards Mechanised Division used up all their [redacted] and were only able to replenish their stocks some 1½ weeks later. 25X1

76. Chemical Warfare Training

(a) [redacted] 25X1

(b) Chemical Warfare Defence lectures were given by the CW Officer on an average once a week. [redacted] 25X1

(c) Gas-chamber drill was carried out once a month by all personnel of the batteries and twice a year by the Rear Service sub-units.

(d) [redacted] gas chamber drill [redacted] 25X1

(i) 5 men entered the gas chamber at a time with their gas-masks on with either the CW Officer or a CW NCO of one of the batteries.

(ii) A gas, [redacted] was introduced into the chamber. 25X1

(iii) The order was then given "Gas Mask is allowing gas to come through (MASK PROPUSKAET GAZ)". Each man removed his gasmasks, closed his eyes and stopped breathing. He unscrewed the tube and, with his eyes still closed, breathed with the tube in his mouth, while holding the gas mask between his knees. This part of the drill went on for 2-3 minutes.

(iv) An order was then given "Gas Mask repaired". Each man then screwed on the tube, put on his mask again and kept it on for a few minutes.

(v) An order was then given "Defect in tube (SHLANG POPORTILSYA)". Each man removed his gas mask, closed his eyes, stopped breathing and removed the tube. He then screwed the filter direct or to the gas-mask which he then put on.

(vi) The next order was "Tube repaired". The reverse process, putting the tube back was then carried out.

(d) The two drills lasted about 15 minutes. About 50% of the battery personnel carried out the drill successfully while hardly one of the rear service sub-unit personnel were able to complete the test. Those unable to carry out the test were allowed to choke for a bit and then were let out of the gas chamber.

(e) Gas chamber drill was invariably followed by an exercise in putting on and taking off protective clothing.

(f) [redacted] protective clothing as consisting of a sort of Cape that covered both the head and body, knee-high "boots" and fingerless gloves (RUKAVITSY), all made of [redacted] "oilcloth" (KLEENKA) of a brownish colour. 25X1 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] 25X1

(g) The drill consisted of putting on the gas-mask and the protective clothing, then crouching down inside the cape. One then removed the clothing without touching it with the bare skin.

(h) Grading of the time taken to carry out the whole exercise was as follows:

Excellent	-	2 minutes
Good	-	3 minutes
Average	-	4 minutes
Bad	-	5 minutes and over.

[redacted] 25X1

78. Night Training

(a) Twice a year, usually a little before the Spring and Autumn Inspections, all routine training was carried out at night for a period of two weeks.

(b) Reveille was at 1800 hrs and Lights Out at 1100 hrs.

(c) This type of night training was carried out in a very slack manner. The officers went off to bed, leaving the Sergeants to conduct the training, and everybody did his best to find a quiet corner to "swing the lead".

79. Rocket Launcher Firing drill.

(a) The Rocket Launcher unit organic to 7 Guards Mechanised Division attended gunnery practice (VOEVYE STREL'AY) on the LIEBEROSE Artillery Ranges twice a year, in March and September, as did the other artillery units of the Division.

(b) They never took all their rocket launchers with them on such occasions. [redacted] Of all the artillery units organic to the Division, the rocket launchers always fired last. 25X1

(c) The crew of six of a rocket launcher consisted of the following:

(i) Two loaders - They loaded the charges into the rockets at the ammunition supply point situated, according to the terrain, some 250-350 meters to the rear of the firing positions.

(ii) The Layer (NAVODCHIK)

(iii) The Gun number - subject described him as a "general help"

(iv) The driver.

(v) The Gun Commander.

(d) A chart showing rocket launcher firing drill is given as Annexure 7 to this report.

[redacted] 25X1

(i) The rockets launchers arrived from the Ammunition Supply Point with the rockets loaded, ready for firing.

(ii) The layer laid the rocket launcher on the target.

(iii) The gun crew, with the exception of the Gun Commander ran back to the slit trenches.

(iv) Armour plating was drawn over the driver's cabin to protect the Gun Commander, who fired the rocket launcher from the cabin.

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80. NCO Training Schools [redacted] 25X1

(a) All the officers and NCOs on the staff of the NCOs Training School were on the establishment of the 468 Guards Mortar Regiment. The School was under the direct command of the Regimental Commander.

(b) The School received personnel for training only from the three mechanised regiments, the Rocket Launcher Battery, the Signals Battalion and from the Mortar Regiment. The course lasted one year and started after the intake of replacements in the Autumn. The School moved to Summer Camp with the regiment.

(c) Students were given a general training as NCOs and specialist training according to their arm of Service.

(d) On successfully completing the course students were given the rank of Junior Sergeant and returned to their units.

(e) Another NCO's Training School existed in the Division. It catered for the Howitzer and AA Regiments, the MC Battalion and the Engineer Battalion. [redacted] 25X1

(f) Tank NCOs were trained in the Tank Training Battalion of the Division at FÜRSTENWALDE.

(g) Quartermaster NCOs were trained at a Divisional QM NCOs School (SHKOLA INTENDANTSTVA) [redacted] 25X1

81. Officers' Courses

[redacted] 25X1

(b) In the USSR a conscript STARSHINA, with a minimum standard of 7 classes of secondary education, could go on a year's course to become an officer. On successfully completing the course he was promoted to Junior Lieutenant.

(c) Cadets, who had finished an Arm of Service Officers' School, were commissioned as Lieutenants.

82. Drivers' Training Schools.

(a) A Divisional drivers' training school was run by the divisional M.T. Battalion at PRENZLAUERBERG. The course started on in September, the starting date largely depending on the arrival of replacements from the USSR, though suitable elements, who had already served some time in the unit were also chosen as drivers. The course ended the following March.

[redacted] 25X1

83. Winter Training for Drivers. All vehicles with the exception of routine transport vehicles, were put in preservation for the winter.

[redacted] 25X1

Each driver had to have at least, 1 hours driving practice per week. The training ("UCHEBNYI") Vehicle was used for this purpose and, to [redacted] 25X1 rime-mover drivers took the wheel of ration trucks in turn during routine runs of the Supply Platoon's Vehicles.

84. Officers' Driving Training. It was laid down that every Soviet officer had to know how to drive a car. All officers were either taught to drive or given driving practice during the winter months on the Unit's training vehicle.

[redacted] 25X1

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85. (a) Steel helmets were carried on all exercises and training, but were not worn.

(b) They were worn the whole time for five days after the June incidents last year while subject's unit was on a war footing.

[redacted] 25X1

87. Daily Routine at 7 Guards Mechanised Division Headquarters

Working hours at 7 Guards Mechanised Division Headquarters was as follows on weekdays.

0800 - 1400 hrs	-	work
1400 - 1800 hrs	-	break
1800 - 2000 hrs	-	work

88. Daily Routine

(a) General. Daily routine was modified with the beginning of the Training Year 1953/1954. The changes principally covered a reduction in training periods (UCHEBNYI CHAS) and the granting of more Spare time to the Conscripts.

(b) Old Daily Routine.

0600	Reveille
0605 - 0630	PT (FIZZARYADKA).
0630 - 0645	Toilet and bed making.
0645 - 0655	Morning Inspection
0700 - 0750	1st Training Hour
0800 - 0850	2nd " "
0900 - 0940	Breakfast
0950 - 1000	Morning Parade
1000 - 1050	3rd Training Hour
1100 - 1150	4th " "
1200 - 1250	5th " "
1300 - 1350	6th " "
1400 - 1450	7th " "
1500 - 1550	8th " "
1600 - 1640	Lunch
1700 - 1830	Rest Period.
1830 - 1930	Aiming Practice (STRELKOVYI TRENAZH)
1930 - 2000	Cleaning of personal weapons
2000 - 2050	Self tuition (SAMOPODGOTOVKA)
2100 - 2130	Supper
2130 - 2230	Free time.
2230 - 2250	Evening Roll Call and "walk".
2300	Lights Out

(c) Daily Routine service 1 December, 1953.

0600	Reveille
0610 - 0635	PT.
0635 - 0655	Toilet and bed making.
0655 - 0710	Morning Inspection
0715 - 0750	Breakfast.
0800 - 0850	1st Training Hour
0900 - 0950	2nd " "
1000 - 1050	3rd " "
1100 - 1150	4th " "
1200 - 1250	5th " "
1300 - 1350	6th " "
1400 - 1440	Lunch
1500 - 1630	Rest Period
1640 - 1730	Aiming Practice
1730 - 1750	Cleaning of Personal Weapons

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1800 - 1950	Self-tuition (principally making political lecture notes).
2000 - 2030	Supper
2030 - 2230	Free time
2230 - 2250	Evening Roll Call and "walk"
2300	Lights Out.

(d) Summer Camp Training Routine

(i) Daily routine in Summer Quarters was advanced by one hour and the daily programme was as follows:-

0500	Reveille
0510 - 0535	PT
0535 - 0555	Toilet and bed making
0555	Morning inspection
0600 - 0640	Breakfast
0645	Morning Parade (UTRENNYI RAZVOD)
0700 - 0750	1st Training Hour
0800 - 0850	2nd Training Hour
0900 - 0950	3rd " "
1000 - 1050	4th " "
1100 - 1150	5th " "
1200 - 1250	6th " "
1300 - 1350	Lunch
1400 - 1530	After lunch rest
1540 - 1600	Aiming Practice
1600 - 1620	Cleaning of Personal Weapons
1630 - 1830	Self tuition.
1900 - 1930	Supper
1930 - 2130	Free time
2130 - 2150	Evening Roll Call and "walk"
2200	Lights Out.

(ii) Every Sunday evening when in Summer Camp all regiments of 7 Guards Mechanised Division paraded with small arms along a road skirting the perimeter of the Camp for inspection by their respective regimental commanders (POLKOVAYA PROVERKA)

89. Routine - Guard Duties at Divisional Installations

(a) Twice a year 468 Guards Mortar Regiment provided one complete Battery ("DIVIZION") to guard the Divisional Supply Point (DOP) at BERKENBRÜCK

(b) The Battery left for BERKENBRUCK with all its heavy equipment. The tour of guard duties was of one month's duration.

(c) No training was carried out during the period. Personnel were on guard duties for 24 hours and then had 24 hours rest.

(d) All Regiments of 7 Guards Mechanised Division provided Battery (or Battalion) level guard detachments for the Supply Point in turn according to a roster made out by Divisional Headquarters.

90. Officers Stationed in GERMANY on Visits to POLAND. Lt. Colonel OSTROVSKII, Chief of Staff of 468 Guards Mortar Regiment, travelled to POLAND at the end of March, 1954, [redacted] He travelled in a staff car and was away for a few days. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted]

OPERATIONS

91. The June, 1953 Riots.

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted]

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(b) The whole of 7 Guards Mechanised Division, at the time in Summer Camp at LIEBEROSE, was alerted by Combat Alert (BOEVAYA TREVOGA) just before lunch on 17 June. All ammunition was loaded on to trucks, but no rations or other equipment.

(c) The Division stood to in steel helmets, waiting for orders until midnight when each unit was told to move to their respective winter quarters. The whole Division moved at once, officers directing the traffic. There was no muddling at all and no bottlenecks.

(d) 468 Guards Mortar Regiment made BEESKOW, a distance of 35 Kms in a little over an hour. The Regiment travelled at about 60 Kms an hour vehicles being spaced 15-20 meters, with masked headlights. No accidents occurred.

(e) On arrival at BEESKOW, the Regiment formed up, nost to tail, round the barracks sports ground. No ammunition was unloaded.

(f) Patrols were detailed to guard bridges and Communist Headquarters in BEESKOW. Motorised patrols toured the town.

(g) A curfew from 4 pm to 8 am was imposed on the German population. Curfew breakers were to be taken to the KOMENDATURA. On the first day Soviet troops were forbidden to use their weapons. On the second day, however, they were told to fire without warning at anybody throwing stones or spitting at Soviet personnel. There were, however no incidents at BEESKOW and the alert was called off on the fifth day.

(h) Rations, bedding and other equipment were brought from LIEBEROSE on the 18th by trucks sent by the Unit for that purpose.

(j) 24 Guards Mechanised Regiment moved to BERLIN about a month after the beginning of the riots.

WELFARE, MORALE and DISCIPLINE

92. Reversal of the Confinement to Barracks Policy

(a) From 1st August, 1953, conscripted personnel of 468 Guards Mortar Regiment were allowed to visit BEESKOW township from 1800 hours to 2300 hours on Saturdays and from 0800 hours to 2300 hours on Sundays. This privilege lasted for only a week. Short leave passes for Saturdays were cancelled at the following week-end and, on Sundays, soldiers were allowed out of barracks only in the afternoons from 1400 hours to 1900 hrs.

(b) This amended policy for short leave passes was abrogated at the end of September. Soldiers were only allowed out if accompanied by an officer.

(c) The reasons given for this reversal of policy [redacted] was that 25X1
those on short leave passes dis-obeyed the ban on entry to bars and dance-halls, lowered Soviet Army prestige by getting excessively drunk and creating incidents. Another reason put forward was that only the new parade uniform (see para 140) could be worn when on short leave pass. As the unit had not yet been issued with such uniforms, no short leave passes could be granted.

(d) The ban on short leave passes was not general. The relaxation of restrictions was based on a Ministry of Defence order which gave latitude to Divisional Commanders to apply it in a way to suit local conditions on the recommendations of unit commanders. Some regimental commanders of units of 7 Guards Mechanised Division still allowed their men to have short leave passes. The men of 468 Guards Mortar Regiment did not believe the excuses put forward for cancelling their privileges. No outstanding "CH.P" (extraordinary events) had taken place, no more than when soldiers went AWOL. [redacted] Colonel LYSYICH feared that 25X1
the drunken behaviour of his men when out of barracks would lead to breaches of Security and that his unit would become as a result, the

[redacted]

25X1

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[redacted]

object of an official investigation. This belief was shared by most of the conscripts. Consequently, Colonel LYSYKH became extremely unpopular with his men, who attributed (probably rightly) to him alone the decision to curtail their privileges, privileges that had been granted by the Ministry. 25X1

(e) During the short period of freedom up to 20% of the conscripted strength of the Unit were allowed out at the same time.

93. Marriage with German Women. Officers and "SVERKHSROCHNIKI" were now authorised to marry German women. [redacted] one specific case in FÜRSTENWALDE. A young German girl became pregnant by a Soviet officer. He wanted to abandon her. Her parents complained to the Soviet Authorities and, as a result, the officer was ordered to marry her (TSELKU NALOMAL EI' KHOTEL BROSIT' - KOMANDOVANIE ZASTAVILA EGO ZHENITSA). According to barrack room gossip, many such marriages between Soviet and German nationals were taking place. The privilege was not extended to conscripts. 25X1

94. Married Families.

(a) Officers and long service NCOs (SVERKHSROCHNIKI) were allowed to bring their families to GERMANY in August, 1953.

(b) [redacted] officers' families were accommodated within the barracks area, but [redacted] where there was insufficient space, officers were permitted to rent quarters privately from Germans and received an allowance for this purpose. [redacted] 25X1

25X1

(c) Higher ranking officers in BEESKOW lived three families per largish, villa-like house. Junior officers were allotted one or two rooms, according to their number of children, but the general principle was that a family unit of husband, wife and one child were allowed one biggish room. Most families had their own Kitchens.

[redacted] 25X1

(e) There were 14 children of officers at BEESKOW. They were not allowed out of the barracks area without their parents. A divisional level school was under construction at FÜRSTENWALDE and children were to be collected daily from all garrison towns and taken to school by special buses.

(f) Wives were free to go where they liked and often shopped in FRANKFURT/ODER. They were given political lectures twice a week by the Political Officer's wife. In general, their behaviour was not very good. Some had already liaisons with junior bachelor officers. Others were arrogant and rude to the soldiers (in particular the Political Officer's wife) a thing the latter resented very much.

(g) Officers, with their families in GERMANY, could take their normal annual leave in the USSR. Free travel warrants were also granted to their wives and children.

(h) [redacted] officers were going to take their families to Summer Camps. Wives of officers of units of 7 Guards Mechanised Division were to be housed in the quarters normally occupied by the Mechanised regiments who were remaining behind in their winter quarters. 25X1

(j) The Commanding officers and senior officers of units were each allowed one German female servant at public expense. Junior officers were allowed German cleaners only, but these were used by the wives as general helps.

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95. Attitude to War

(a) [redacted] Many [redacted] believed that the Soviet Union would be involved in a War with the West sooner or later. Their opinions were based on the incessant propaganda that was showered on them by the Press, the Radio and political lecturers. Their attitude to War remained, however, purely one of personal comfort. Their one idea was to get out of the Army and to spend at least a year at home before the next War started. 25X1

(b) [redacted] most officers were convinced and, in some cases hoped, that War was imminent. At the time of the June riots many officers thought that it was the start of a War and quite a number of officers indulged in heroic talk both amongst themselves and amongst their men. 25X1

96. Attitude to Germans

(a) The average Russian soldier liked the Germans. The civilian population was always willing to help a Russian soldier in trouble and, if he was AWOL, hide him from KOMENDATURA patrols.

(b) The KVP, however, were hated by the Russians. They had power to arrest Soviet Army personnel in civilian restaurants and other out of bounds places and hand them over to the nearest KOMENDATURA. They were anything but gentle in handling a drunken Russian. In BEESKOW, soldiers [redacted] devised a method of getting even with the KVP. A group of about six friends would slip out of barracks. One would blatantly walk into a German restaurant while his friends hid out of sight in the vicinity. The decoy would buy a bottle of beer, leave the restaurant with the bottle and be immediately surrounded by KVP. He would resist arrest and be manhandled. His companions then rushed out from their hiding-place and would beat up the KVP with sticks. 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

97. Attitude to Officers

[redacted] 25X1

(i) First and foremost came the officer who had served as a combat officer during the War, the "FRONTOUIK". In general, such officers knew their job, were fair with their men and, above all, were approachable without fear of being met with bad language and indifference.

(ii) The "FRONTOUIK", anti-thesis was the officer who was incapable of seeing beyond what was laid down in the Regulations, which he applied without any latitude for human weaknesses. His own behaviour and knowledge of his job often left much to be desired. He was rude to his subordinates and thawed before his superiors. He was unapproachable and was not the common soldier's friend.

[redacted] 25X1

(b) Conscripts were jealous of officers' privileges, which they flaunted in front of their subordinates. [redacted] When drunk, soldiers openly insulted unpopular officers. In this respect [redacted] a soldier could say to an officer when drunk "I hate you but respect your uniform and shoulder boards" and get off with a night in 25X1 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] 25X1

the Guard Room to sober down. On the other hand an outburst "I hate you officers!" would result in the rash speaker being court-martialled.

98. Discipline

[redacted] 25X1

(b) The principal reasons for arrest in the Guard Room were drunkenness, AWOL and arguing with a superior (Z. PRIVLIKNIE S KOMANDIROM).

(c) Returns of Rewards and Punishments awarded by sub-unit Commanders were submitted to Regimental Headquarters once a month and forwarded in consolidated form to Divisional Headquarters.

(d) In general, the younger soldiers were much more indisciplined than the older ones. Young soldiers training in the NCO's School were constantly serving sentences in the Guard Room for acts of indiscipline and, having been punished, were returned to the School to continue their training. In the past, [redacted] a term in the Guard Room served by a would be NCO would have resulted in the culprit being debarred from further training at a NCOs School. 25X1

99. Punishments

(a) Nearly every soldier absented himself without leave from the barracks area at one time or another. Prostitution was rife in the vicinity of the barracks and German women plied their trade with the soldiers for five marks. A soldier caught being AWOL usually received 20 days simple or 15 days rigourous arrest. But punishment was no deterrent. Some men had as much as 160 days in the Guard Room to their credit. Normally according to the Regulations (PO UST.VU), a cumulated period of 90 days in the Guard Room automatically brought about the culprit's Court Martial, but Commanding Officers were reluctant to take this step both for their own and the culprit's sake.

25X1

102. Theft

(a) Two soldiers [redacted] robbed a German shop while stationed in Summer Camp in 1953. They were sentenced to 12 and 8 years hard labour respectively. 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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